

CAUTION: ADVANCE TEXT

PRESS RELEASE NO. 52  
December 17, 1965

FOR RELEASE ON DELIVERY

Press Office  
750 Third Avenue, New York  
YUKon 6-5740

UNITED NATIONS SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE  
ON THE EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION - Item 34

Text of statement to be made in the  
Special Political Committee by the  
Canadian representative, Mr. Paul  
Beaulieu, on Friday, December 17, 1965

Mr. Chairman, the Canadian delegation has the honour of introducing to the Special Political Committee the draft resolution contained in document A/SPC/L.125 concerning the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. The sixteen co-sponsors are the following: Brazil, Burma, Canada, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, Ghana, India, Japan, Mali, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Thailand, and the United Arab Republic.

The members of this Committee know that the Scientific Committee was established by the General Assembly at its tenth session on December 3, 1955 under resolution 913 (X) to receive and assemble in an appropriate and useful form information on radiation furnished by various Member States of the United Nations or of the specialized agencies, as well as by the International Atomic Energy Agency. It also has responsibility for making a summary report on the observed levels of radioactivity in the atmosphere, evaluating the reports it receives, and indicating research programmes which might require further study.

The Scientific Committee is composed of scientists of 15 member countries, and Canada has the honour of being among them. It is worthwhile pointing out that the success of the Scientific Committee's work over the past eleven years is largely due to the fact that it has limited its activity to purely scientific questions submitted to it by the General Assembly. We sometimes hear the suggestion that our organization accomplishes little more than just talk. However, close examination of the subject before us today and of the thorough studies on the question provides an example of the sort of fruitful international co-operation in which our organization can justly take pride.

We all know, Mr. Chairman, why the United Nations has concerned itself with the question of atomic radiation. We know that over the past twenty years nuclear tests have been contaminating the atmosphere with massive doses of atomic radiation. We know that this radiation affects all aspects of human life. The fact that this radio activity will remain for a long time and will have a continuing effect on mankind for